

Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee

Approved Minutes for April 8, 2004

Attendees:

Committee Members:

Ralph Hambrick, Sue Cecil, John Pearsall, Greg Velzy and Jonathan Young.

Others:

Louise Burke (Emeritus Committee Member), Lyn Crump (Dept. of Conservation and Recreation), Lyn Lanier (Friends of Pump House), Bob Steidel (City of Richmond), Ralph White (James River Parks) and R. B. Young (Emeritus Committee Member).

The Committee convened with a unanimous approval of the minutes from the March meeting.

The Committee next discussed potential candidates for appointment to the Committee. Several persons were recommended for further deliberation.

Ralph Hambrick initiated discussion pertaining to a draft riparian owner's best practices letter. Hambrick circulated the draft prepared by himself and Greg Velzy. Hambrick stated that the objectives of the letter were to raise awareness of the issues confronting the James River and to invite landowners to the Falls of James meetings. The Committee engaged in lengthy discussion pertaining to the contents of the letter. Jonathan Young circulated a substitute letter and argued in favor of said substitute. The Committee further debated the content of the letters and agreed for members to forward recommendations to Young for inclusion in an amended draft.

Hambrick advised the Committee that the Downtown Master Plan is still being drafted and public hearings have not yet been scheduled.

The Committee engaged in a brief discussion pertaining to the whitewater takeout proposal.

Hambrick informed the Committee that a view-shed study has been proposed.

Greg Velzy communicated James River Outdoor Coalition's intent to survey James River Parks users.

Bob Steidel reported that the wing wall on Boshers dam is in procurement for necessary repairs. In addition, Steidel reported that the third phase of the CSO project is under discussion.

The Committee was provided with a copy of a proposed ordinance pertaining to a lease agreement between the City and Dominion for the purpose of extending river viewing for the public.

Ralph White informed the Committee of a proposal for high-rise residential construction on the eastern end of Chappel Island. The Committee engaged in discussion in regards to the information and John Pearsall motioned that the Committee draft a letter to the City communicating "opposition to the non-recreational development of park property and to further inquire of the City about the proposed Rockets Wharf development proposal". Bob Steidel informed the Committee that DPU's intent is to enlarge the retention basin on Chappel Island. The understanding of the Committee was that the referenced proposals conflict with one another.

Additional topics of discussion included damage to the salamander's habitat along Riverside Drive, the anticipated completion of a continuous bike trail along the south-side of the James River, and the enlargement of the Powhite Parkway's toll booths and consequential effects on the newly constructed mountain bike trails.

The Committee adjourned at 2:00.